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Mint offers discounts

By Roger Boye

UnCLE Sam is offering "pre-issue" price discounts in an attempt to boost sales of its Bill of Rights commemorative coins, the first such program of 1993.

Through March 5, the U.S. Mint is charging \$12.50 (a dollar off the regular price) for a proof half dollar that depicts President James Madison, principal architect of the Bill of Rights.

Other views of Madison adorn a proof silver dollar (\$25 "pre-issue," a \$4 savings) and a \$5 coin containing .24 ounce of gold (included in a three-item proof set that sells for \$215 pre-issue, a \$30 savings). The Bill of Rights coins cost slightly less than similar three-item sets issued last year.

Also, officials have produced an innovative Young Collector's Edition (\$9.75 pre-issue), which is designed for children ages 6 to 10 and holds a specially packaged silver half dollar. For years, hobby leaders have said that the U.S. Mint should do more to attract youngsters to coin collecting.

To place a coin order, call, toll free, 1-800-872-1791, or write to the Customer Service Center, United States Mint, 10001 Aerospace Drive, Lanham, Md. 20706 (coin shipments will begin in February and continue for several months).